

What is claimed is:

1. The method comprising:

providing a substantially planar sheet candy member having an upper side and a lower side;

5 positioning the lower side of the sheet candy member on a substantially planar support surface;

providing a vacuum carrier having a substantially planar lower carrier surface;

placing colored candy beads next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

10 placing the vacuum carrier over the candy beads with the lower carrier surface directed towards the candy beads;

moving the vacuum carrier downwardly to place the carrier surface adjacent the candy beads;

15 connecting the vacuum carrier to a vacuum and using the vacuum to pick up a predetermined pattern of the candy beads from the support surface and hold them on the lower carrier surface of the carrier;

20 positioning the carrier over the sheet candy member and moving the carrier and the pattern of candy beads relatively towards the sheet candy member to place the pattern of candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

releasing the vacuum from the carrier and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

25 leaving the pattern of candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

2. The method of claim 1, comprising applying an edible adhesive to the upper side of the sheet candy member and placing the pattern of candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the pattern of colored candy beads are all the same color.

4. The method of claim 3, comprising placing additional colored candy beads of a different color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

5 placing a vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads and moving the vacuum carrier adjacent the additional candy beads;

using the vacuum to pick up a second pattern of said additional candy beads and hold such second pattern of candy beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier;

10 positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and moving the carrier and the second pattern of the additional candy beads downwardly to place the second pattern of additional candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

15 releasing the vacuum from the carrier and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the second pattern of additional candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

5. The method of claim 4, comprising providing an edible adhesive on the upper surface of the sheet candy member and placing the first and second predetermined patterns of the additional candy beads on the edible adhesive.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein the second pattern of additional color candy beads are all the same color.

7. The method of claim 4, comprising placing candy beads of a third color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

5 placing a vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads moving and moving the vacuum carrier onto the additional candy beads;

using the vacuum to pick up a third pattern of said third color of candy beads and hold such patten of beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier;

10        positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and  
moving the carrier and the third pattern of candy beads  
downwardly to place the third pattern of candy beads adjacent  
the upper surface of the sheet candy member;  
      releasing the vacuum from the carrier and removing the  
15        carrier away from the sheet candy member; and  
      leaving the third pattern of additional candy beads  
attached to the sheet candy member.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising providing an edible  
adhesive on the upper surface of the sheet candy member and  
placing the first, second and third pattern of candy beads on  
the edible adhesive.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the three pattern of  
colored candy beads form a cartoon picture.

10. The method of claim 1, comprising placing the sheet  
of plastic on the planar support surface;  
      placing the lower side of the sheet candy member on the  
sheet plastic; and  
5        using a vacuum to connect the sheet candy member and the  
sheet plastic to the planar support surface.

11. The method of claim 1, comprising using a fruit  
flavored candy member.

12. The method of claim 1, comprising vibrating the  
substantially flat support surface to cause the colored candy  
beads to move into close contact with each other on the  
substantially flat surface, without any of the candy beads  
5        being situated on top of other candy beads.

13. The method of claim 1, comprising positioning a press  
over the candy beads and using the press to push the candy  
beads into the sheet candy member.

14. The method of claim 13, comprising placing additional hard candy beads of a different color next to each other on a substantially flat support surface;

5 placing a vacuum carrier over the additional candy beads and moving the vacuum carrier adjacent the additional candy beads;

using the vacuum to pick up a second pattern of said additional candy beads and hold such second pattern of candy beads on the lower carrier surface of the carrier;

10 positioning the carrier over the candy sheet member and moving the carrier and the second pattern of the additional candy beads downwardly to place the second pattern of additional candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member;

15 releasing the vacuum from the carrier and removing the carrier away from the sheet candy member; and

leaving the second pattern of additional candy beads attached to the sheet candy member.

15. Apparatus for making a candy product comprising a sheet candy member and patterns of different color candy beads on the sheet candy member, together with a sheet candy member forming a picture or a design, said apparatus comprising:

5 a support for the sheet candy member;

at least one substantially flat support surface for a two dimensional group of candy beads;

10 a vacuum carrier adopted to pick up a particular pattern of the candy beads from the group and hold them on a lower surface of the carrier; and

said vacuum carrier being in positionable over the sheet candy member on the support surface, and being movable downwardly onto the sheet candy member, and then being movable up away from the sheet candy member when the vacuum is turned  
15 off, leaving the candy beads on the upper surface of the sheet candy member.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the vacuum carrier comprises a vacuum manifold having a lower wall and openings in the lower wall or communicating a vacuum from the chamber to the candy beads, said openings being in the particular  
5 pattern of the candy beads that are picked up from the flat support surface.

17. Apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the support for the sheet candy member comprises a vacuum holder having a vacuum chamber and a top wall and openings in the top wall communicating the vacuum with a sheet candy member placed on  
5 the support.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a stencil positionable above the sheet candy member, said stencil including an opening corresponding in shape to the pattern of candy beads that is to be placed on the sheet candy member.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, comprising a support frame for the stencil and a base for the support, said support frame being pivotally connected to the base and being pivotally movable from a down position on the sheet candy member that is  
5 on the support and an up position in which it extends generally upwardly from the base.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, comprising a presser positionable for placement on the candy beads and usable for pressing the candy beads into the sheet candy member.

21. A candy product comprising a sheet candy member having an upper surface; and

a picture formed on the upper surface by patterns of different colored candy beads that are pressed into the upper  
5 surface of the sheet candy member.

22. The candy product of claim 21, wherein the sheet candy member is of a first color and the candy beads are formed in plural patterns of plural colors.

23. The candy product of claim 21, wherein the sheet candy member has a fruit flavor and is made from a mixture of fruit concentrate and fruit juice cooked with sugar and modified starch and the fruit concentrate is the predominant  
5 ingredient.

24. The candy product of claim 23, wherein the candy beads are rounded and measure about one sixteen ( $1/16$ ) to about one eight ( $1/8$ ) in diameter.